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EVENTS

# Celebrate superheroes and cosplay at Abilene Public Library's 2016 Lib-Con



Photo courtesy of Abilene Public Library 2015 Lib-Con A workshop on creating cosplay costumes was featured during the 2015 Lib-Con at the Abilene Public Library. This year's event begins Monday.

By *Janet Van Vleet* of the Abilene Reporter News

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Three years ago, the Abilene Public Library launched a miniconvention aimed at gamers, anime fans, cosplay folks and fanboys (and fangirls).

The 2014 Lib-Con drew a nice size crowd — 290 attendees — during the multiday program.

"I thought that was pretty good," said Janis Test, information services manager at the main library in downtown Abilene.

Flash forward one year, and more than 1,500 attended the 2015 Lib-Con.

Amanda Sasser, library assistant II, also at the main library, said she credits attendees for spreading the news about the event and the authenticity of Lib-Con for the growth.

"It's been kind of word-of-mouth in the geek-nerd community," Sasser said. "It's pretty close to a real convention you would pay for in Dallas or Austin."

One thing that sets the Abilene convention apart is that admission is free. Other than paying for food from the Rockn Rollerz and Sweet Side food trucks May 7, everything else is free.

This year's event features new programs, including a "Face Off" event similar to the TV show, with makeup artists competing to create the best horror-themed makeup; a life-size cosplay chess game; and an after-hours Nerf Wars on Friday night, for people 18 and older.

Both Sasser and Test said they expect attendance to get even bigger this year. If the event gets too big, it might have to move to the Abilene Civic Center, Test said.

The 2016 Lib-Con begins Monday with a craft activity and a screening of "Big Hero 6," as well as the new Harry Potter Triwizard Night for ages 13 and older. The Harry Potter event

will include three different crafts to complete for the three challenges, HP trivia and more.

A variety of programs, including story times, gaming nights, movies and more, are on the schedule throughout the week.

On Saturday, which marks the final day of Lib-Con and Free Comic Day across the nation, everyone gets a free comic book at any branch of the Abilene library, as long as supplies last.

There are literally programs for all ages. So let that inner geek out and visit the library next week for a whole new experience.

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**About Janet Van Vleet**

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